



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 8, 2008

S. 2805

Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 16, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 2805 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of irrigation infrastructure within the Rio Grande Basin of New Mexico and to provide financial assistance to certain Rio Grande Pueblos to make improvements to that infrastructure. For those purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$28 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$36 million over the 2014-2019 period.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$24 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$40 million after 2013. Enacting the legislation would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

S. 2805 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2805 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	4	6	6	6	6	28
Estimated Outlays	2	4	6	6	6	24

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted early in fiscal year 2009 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year.

S. 2805 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to assess the irrigation infrastructure within the Rio Grande Basin in New Mexico. The bureau would be authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Rio Grande Pueblos to repair, rehabilitate, or replace the infrastructure (Rio Grande Pueblos are federally recognized tribes that occupy land in the Rio Grande Basin). The federal share of project costs would be limited to 75 percent, unless a Pueblo demonstrates financial hardship and cannot provide the nonfederal share of the costs. Funds provided could not be used to repair or rehabilitate water impoundment structures or to make improvements on individual farms.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2805 would cost \$24 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$40 million after 2013.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2805 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Rio Grande Pueblos would benefit from the study and grants for irrigation projects authorized in the bill. Any costs to those entities, including matching funds, would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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